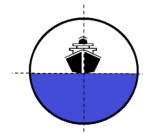




UP PERISCOPE



Providing Information about the U. S. Submarine Force

VITAL LINKS

[U.S. Navy Homepage](#)

[Commander, Naval Submarine Force Homepage](#)

[Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet](#)

[Undersea Warfare Magazine](#)

[Naval Historical Center](#)

[Navy News Stand](#)

[Navy League of the United States](#)

[Naval Submarine League](#)



Letter from Commander, Naval Submarine Forces

This is the inaugural "Up Periscope" newsletter that will aid you in keeping up with information and issues pertinent to the Submarine Force. I hope that this product and your opportunity to visit a submarine will encourage you to share your experiences with everyone you meet. It is a very important part of our program to educate people on the Navy and the Submarine Force. Should you desire additional information on a particular subject or you don't see

a topic included, we welcome your feedback.

The newsletter is link intensive, so click on any newslink to find out more about a particular area. Thank you for your continuing support of the Submarine Force and the U.S. Navy.

Sincerely,

KIRKLAND H. DONALD
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Naval Submarine Forces

Status of the Force

(Updated 1/22/04)

**21 Submarines
underway**

8 Submarines on deployment



Submarine Snapshot Artic Circle (Oct. 2003) -- As seen through the periscope of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Honolulu (SSN 718), a young Polar bear investigates the open water around the submarine's rudder, while surfaced 280 miles from the North Pole. Commanded by Cmdr. Charles Harris, USS Honolulu while conducting otherwise classified operations in the Artic, collected scientific data and water samples for U.S. and Canadian Universities as part of an agreement with the Artic Submarine Laboratory (ASL) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). USS Honolulu is the 24th Los Angeles-class submarine, and the first original design in her class to visit the North Pole region. Honolulu is assigned to Commander Submarine Pacific, Submarine Squadron Three, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. U. S. Navy photo by Chief Yeoman Alphonso Braggs. (RELEASED)

Commander, Naval Submarine Forces

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Virginia to be Commissioned in Namesake State

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy, has approved Norfolk, Va., as the commissioning location of Pre-commissioning Unit (PCU) Virginia, the Navy's newest fast-attack submarine and the first submarine of the class.

Lynda Johnson Robb, wife of former U.S. Senator Charles S. Robb of Virginia, daughter of former President Lyndon B. Johnson and the submarine's sponsor, christened Virginia during a ceremony at General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Conn., Aug. 16.

Virginia, the ninth ship to bear this name, is designed for battle space dominance across a broad spectrum of regional and littoral missions. While maintaining a robust capability for open-ocean anti-submarine warfare, Virginia incorporates an advanced weapons system, vastly improved sonar equipment and cutting edge intelligence gathering capabilities that are key for joint operations in shallower coastal regions, including land attack, intelligence gathering, mine reconnaissance and deployment of special forces.

Weighing in at approximately 7,800 tons with a length of 370 feet, Virginia is longer but lighter than the previous Seawolf-class of submarines. The 132-member crew can launch Tomahawk land-attack missiles from 12 vertical launch system tubes and Mark 48 advanced capability torpedoes from four 21-inch torpedo tubes.

Virginia's keel was laid Sept. 2, 1999. Following Virginia's commissioning, PCUs Texas (SSN 775) and Hawaii (SSN 776) will be the next submarines of this class to join the fleet. ♪

In the news...

USS Philadelphia logs 1,000th dive during historic deployment

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) -- USS Philadelphia (SSN 690) became the first Los Angeles-class submarine to complete 1,000 dives, Dec. 4 at 5:39 p.m. Philadelphia achieved the milestone during a seven-month deployment. "Very few boats in the Submarine Force have completed this task," said Diving Officer Lt. John Adkisson.

Pacific Submarine Force: A New Era of Warfare

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) -- In a January interview, Rear Adm. Paul F. Sullivan, commander, Submarine Force Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), said his submariners are ready for 2004. The attack submarines (SSNs) stationed in Pearl Harbor, San Diego and Guam, as well as the "boomers" (SSBNs) homeported in Bangor, Wash., are ready to play their part in the global war on terrorism.

Oceanographic Information Superiority through Battlespace Characterization

(Published in Sea Technologies Magazine, December 2003)

If it's true that when money talks, people listen, this should get your attention! In its FY 2004 budget submission, the U.S. Navy requested \$2.8 billion for the Virginia-class submarine program.

VIDEO LINKS

Stories from Navy/Marine Corps
News about the submarine force

Underwater, What's The Catch Of The Day?

Submarine Commanders awarded the Bronze Star

CTF-12 Keeps Pacific Fleet Ready with ASW Improvement Program



Commander, Naval Submarine Forces

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